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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/047,022	01/17/2002	Takeyoshi Ito	0879-0371P	5712
2292	7590	08/24/2005	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				JELINEK, BRIAN J
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		2615		

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/047,022	ITO, TAKEYOSHI	
	Examiner Brian Jelinek	Art Unit 2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/25/2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 1/17/2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

The Examiner respectfully submits a response to the amendment received on 6/13/2005 of application no. 10/047,022 filed on 1/17/2002 in which claims 1-20 are currently pending.

Examiner of Record

Please note that the Examiner of record has changed.

Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pg. 13 of 16, filed 6/13/2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 5 under Okino and Berstis have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection has been made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 8-11, and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okino et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,214,516).

Regarding claim 1, Okino discloses a digital camera which has a first function of self-timer image-capturing function (col. 3, lines 53-65, col. 4, lines 15-23, where the elapsed recording time or remaining recording time is displayed by the LED) and a second function different from the first function (col. 4, lines 15-23; the voice recording mode), the digital camera comprising: an indicating device which is arranged on a front of the digital camera (Fig. 1, element 5, LED), indicates a situation in self-timer image-capturing by at least one of lighting and blinking (col. 3, lines 53-65), and indicates an operation situation of the second function, wherein the second function is a moving image-capturing function (col. 4, lines 15-23; the voice recording mode, wherein audio and video are recorded synchronously, col. 1, lines 45-52).

Regarding claim 2, Okino discloses the indicating device indicates the operation situation of the second function by at least one of lighting, blinking, and emitting colors (col. 3, lines 53-65; col. 4, lines 15-23).

Regarding claim 3, Okino discloses the second function further includes a voice recording function (col. 3, lines 53-65; col. 4, lines 15-23).

Regarding claim 4, Okino discloses the indicating device indicates the operation situation of the second function by at least one of lighting, blinking, and emitting colors (col. 3, lines 53-65; col. 4, lines 15-23).

Regarding claim 8, Okino discloses a method for indicating a plurality of functions of a camera, indicating a first function utilizing an indicating device located in a front of the camera, wherein the first function is a self-timer image-capturing function (col. 3, lines 53-65, col. 4, lines 15-23, where the elapsed recording time or remaining recording

time is displayed by the LED); and indicating a second function utilizing the indicating device, wherein the second function includes a moving image-capturing (col. 4, lines 15-23; the voice recording mode, wherein audio and video are recorded synchronously, col. 1, lines 45-52).

Regarding claim 9, Okino discloses the indicating device is an LED (Fig. 1, element 5).

Regarding claim 10, Okino discloses the step of indicating self-timer image-capturing function includes: operating the indicating device in a continuous manner for a first predetermined period of time when it is determined that a shutter button of the camera is fully depressed (col. 3, lines 43-65, first flash from LED); operating the indicating device in a blinking manner for a second predetermined period of time after the first predetermined period of time has elapsed (col. 3, lines 43-65, LED flashes at five seconds and seven seconds); and operating the indicating device in the continuous manner for a third predetermined period of time after the second predetermined period of time has elapsed (col. 3, lines 43-65, LED remains emitting during the last second of recording).

Regarding claim 11, Okino discloses the second function further includes at least one of communications processing, audio recording, and voice memo processing (col. 3, lines 53-65, col. 4, lines 15-23).

Regarding claim 15, Okino discloses the step of indicating the moving image-capturing function includes: operating the indicating device in a blinking manner when determined that the camera is in a moving image recording mode (col. 3, lines 43-65,

the voice recording mode, wherein audio and video are recorded synchronously, col. 1, lines 45-52); and ceasing operation of the indicating device when it is determined that the camera is no longer in the moving image recording mode (col. 3, lines 61-62) because the LED turns off when recording has finished.

Regarding claim 16, Okino discloses that it is determined that the camera is no longer in the moving image recording mode when a shutter button of the camera is half-depressed or when a predetermined time has passed since a start of the moving image recording mode (col. 3, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 17, please see the rejection of claim 15.

Regarding claim 18, please see the rejection of claim 16.

Regarding claim 19, please see the rejection of claim 15 and note that the Examiner is interpreting the recording of audio to comprise a voice memo.

Regarding claim 20, Okino discloses it is determined that the camera is no longer in the voice memo mode when a back switch of the camera is on (Fig. 2, element 2) and a predetermined time has passed since a start of the moving image recording mode (col. 3, lines 1-7).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okino et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,214,516) in view of Ohmura et al. (U.S. Pat. App. No. 2003/0011702).

Regarding claim 12, Okino discloses displaying the battery charge level (col. 5, lines 3-8). Okino does not disclose the step of indicating the battery charge processing function includes: operating the indicating device in a continuous manner until it is determined that the battery is fully charged; and ceasing operation of the indicating device when it is determined that the battery is fully charged.

However, Ohmura discloses an LED for displaying a charging state of a digital camera (Fig. 4, element 5i), wherein the LED blinks in a continuous manner until it is determined that the battery is fully charged (Fig. 7, step 167); and ceasing operation of the indicating device when it is determined that the battery is fully charged (Fig. 7, step S169) because the LED stops blinking and remains illuminated when the battery is fully charged. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have operated the indicating device in a continuous manner until it is determined that the battery is fully charged; and ceasing operation of the indicating device when it is determined that the battery is fully charged in order to display a battery charge state to a user. As a result, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have operated the indicating device in a continuous manner until it is determined that the battery is fully charged; and ceasing operation of the indicating device when it is determined that the battery is fully charged in order to display a battery charge state to a user.

Regarding claim 13, Ohmura further discloses the step of indicating the communications processing function includes: operating the indicating device in a blinking manner when it determined that the camera is in communication with an external device (Fig. 6, step S155); operating the indicating device in an intermittent manner when it is determined that the camera may be disconnected from communication with the external device (Fig. 8, step S101) because the LED blinks during transmission and communication may be interrupted by determination of the user at any time during communication; and ceasing operation of the indicating device when it is determined that the camera is disconnected from communication with the external device because it is clear that when the camera is disconnected, the LED would not be blinking because the camera is no longer transmitting data in the communications mode.

Regarding claim 14, Ohmura discloses the communication processing occurs via IEEE 1394, i.e. firewire (Fig. 5, element 6d). Ohmura does not disclose the communication processing occurs via USB bus. However, Official Notice is given of the equivalence of IEEE 1394, i.e. firewire, and USB for their use in communications between a digital camera and external device, and the selection of any of these known equivalents to perform communications with a digital camera would have been within the level of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. As a result, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have performed communication processing via USB because IEEE 1394, i.e. firewire, is a known equivalent to USB for performing communications with a digital camera.

Claims 5, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okino et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,214,516), in view of Matsuo (U.S. Pat. No. 6,526,293), and further in view of Ohmura et al. (U.S. Pat. App. No. 2003/0011702).

Regarding claim 5, Okino discloses a digital camera, wherein: the digital camera has a self-timer image-capturing function (col. 3, lines 53-65; col. 4, lines 15-23); and the digital camera comprises a first indicating device which is arranged on a front of the digital camera (Fig. 1, element 5), indicates a situation in self-timer image-capturing by at least one of lighting and blinking (col. 3, lines 35-47; col. 4, lines 15-23), and displays the battery charge level (col. 5, lines 3-8). Okino does not disclose the first indicating device indicates a charging situation by the charging function, wherein the charging function is the charging of a battery; and the camera is mounted to a cradle comprising power and communication terminals.

However, Matsuo discloses an electronic device comprising an LED that operates in a “normal” mode and in a charging mode, wherein the LED lights up in a different way in the charging mode than in the normal mode by changing the frequency of blinking or the intensity of light (col. 3, lines 35-47; col. 5, lines 5-13). One of ordinary skill in the art would have provided an LED capable of indicating a normal mode and a charging mode in order to display the charging state of the battery (col. 3, lines 48-54). As a result, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have configured the first indicating device to indicate a self-timer mode and the charging of a battery.

In addition, Ohmura discloses a digital camera mounted to a cradle (Fig. 1, element 5); the cradle has a terminal to communicate with an external device carrying out two-way communication (Fig. 2, element 5d, signal connector, IEEE 1394), and a power output terminal (Fig. 2, element 5f, power supply connector) to output a direct voltage source (Fig. 2, element 5e); the digital camera carries out two-way communication with the external device via the cradle (Fig. 5, element 6d); the digital camera has a charging function of charging a battery in the digital camera by the direct voltage source input from the power output terminal of the cradle when power of the digital camera is off (Fig. 7, steps S164-S168). One of ordinary skill in the art would have provided a digital camera with a cradle comprising power and communication terminals in order to recharge the camera's batteries and connect the camera to a display (Fig. 1, element 2). As a result, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have provided a digital camera mounted to a cradle; the cradle has a terminal to communicate with an external device carrying out two-way communication, and a power output terminal to output a direct voltage source; the digital camera carries out two-way communication with the external device via the cradle; the digital camera has a charging function of charging a battery in the digital camera by the direct voltage source input from the power output terminal of the cradle when power of the digital camera is off in order to recharge the camera's batteries and connect the camera to a display.

Regarding claim 7, Okino discloses an LED displaying a self-timer image-capturing function (col. 3, lines 53-65; col. 4, lines 15-23); and the battery charge level

(col. 5, lines 3-8). Okino does not disclose that communication with the external device is indicated by the first indicating device when the power of the digital camera is on.

However, Ohmura discloses a camera docking stations comprising an LED (Fig. 4, element 5i) that indicates communication (Fig. 6, step S155) and charging (Fig. 7, step S167). Furthermore, Matsuo discloses an electronic device connected to a battery charger, wherein the LED on the electronic device is used to indicate a normal mode and a charging mode. Further still, Matsuo discloses using the LED on the electronic device to indicate charging instead of using an LED on the charger, thereby eliminating the necessity of providing a charging LED on the charger (col. 1, lines 44-50). In view of the teaching of Okino, Ohmura, and Matsuo, it is clear that one of ordinary skill in the art would have known to configure the multi-function LED of Okino to indicate communication with the external device in order to display a state of communications (Ohmura: Fig. 6, step S155) while eliminating the necessity of providing an additional LED on the docking station (Matsuo: col. 1, lines 44-50). As a result, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have enabled the first indicating device to indicate when the power of the digital camera is on and the camera is communicating data with the external device in order to display a state of communications while eliminating the necessity of providing an additional LED on the docking station.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 6 is allowed or would be allowable if rewritten to overcome any and all objections.

Claim 6, is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claim 6, the reason for allowance is as follows: the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a digital camera comprising a detecting device, wherein when the detecting device detects mounting to a cradle, the charging situation of the digital camera is indicated by the first indicating device, and when the detecting device detects non-mounting to the cradle, the charging situation of the digital camera is indicated by the second indicating device on the rear of the camera.

Conclusion

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Jelinek whose telephone number is (571) 272-7366. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached at (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brian Jelinek
8/18/2005



DAVID L. OMETZ
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